

# MEMO

**DATE:** September 1, 2005

**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee (EEC),

**FROM:** Jennifer Brost, AICP, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1829, [brost@scag.ca.gov](mailto:brost@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Ad Hoc Energy Working Group

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## **SUMMARY:**

On July 7, 2005, the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) directed staff to consider a forum that would address energy policy in depth. This report describes steps staff proposes to take to assemble and Ad Hoc Energy Working Group.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The EEC requested staff's recommendation on a potential energy task force at their July 7, 2005 meeting. Staff has subsequently considered the formation of an energy working group to assist with the Energy Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The energy working group will have well-defined tasks and points at which the EEC can reassess its purpose and charge. The energy working group will be ad hoc, allowing the membership and meeting frequency to vary as needed.

In conjunction with the RCP Task Force, staff is continuing to identify support needs for the RCP process. At this time, the energy group is the only anticipated new body, as most other plan topics are covered within existing committees or task forces. Staff will report in a future meeting on the overall communication structure for the RCP, and the EEC may make adjustments to the energy group at that time.

## **Preliminary Goals:**

The working group will proceed in phases, each with a clear set of measurable goals. Phase 1 would be completed in approximately one year and would focus on developing the Energy Chapter of the RCP and identifying outcomes for the RCP. The outcomes will generally consist of quantifiable benchmarks to measure energy generation, supply, and consumption. At the completion of Phase 1, the EEC would have the opportunity to reassess the working group's purpose and make-up. Expanded policy discussions could occur in Phase 2 at the EEC's direction.

## **Potential Participants:**

The group should include representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission, and utility representatives. The RCP Task Force requested additional participants, which have been included below. Participation may vary depending on discussion items. For example, when the discussion on outcomes begins, the energy working group may consider engaging a broader spectrum of interests including energy alliances, the building industry, and environmental groups.

Actual membership will depend on commitments from the following groups invited to participate. Members of the EEC and the RCP Task Force will be provided with notices and agendas of the meetings so they can participate at their discretion.

- California Public Utilities Commission
- California Energy Commission

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- Southern California Edison
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Energy Division, Los Angeles County
- Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
- Bay Energy Savings Center, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
- Environmental organization
- Building industry
- Local governments
- Imperial Irrigation District